

Testimony
Senate Bill 2271 – Department of Human Services
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Lee, Chairman
January 29, 2013

Chairman Lee, members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Russell Cusack, Director of the Vocational Rehabilitation Division for the Department of Human Services. I am here today to discuss Senate Bill 2271.

Senate Bill 2271 requires the Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities (the Committee) to promote competitive and integrated employment as the first employment option for individuals with disabilities. This bill requires the Department of Human Services to provide administrative support for the Committee and also allows for the appointment of a full-time director for the Committee. The Department's 2013-2015 budget request does not include funding for activities to support the Committee. If this bill is to be enacted, the Department will need clarification on the funding to support the efforts of Senate Bill 2271.

Presently the Department uses federal funds to support the federally mandated State Rehabilitation Council, a council that has responsibility for activities similar to the Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions.